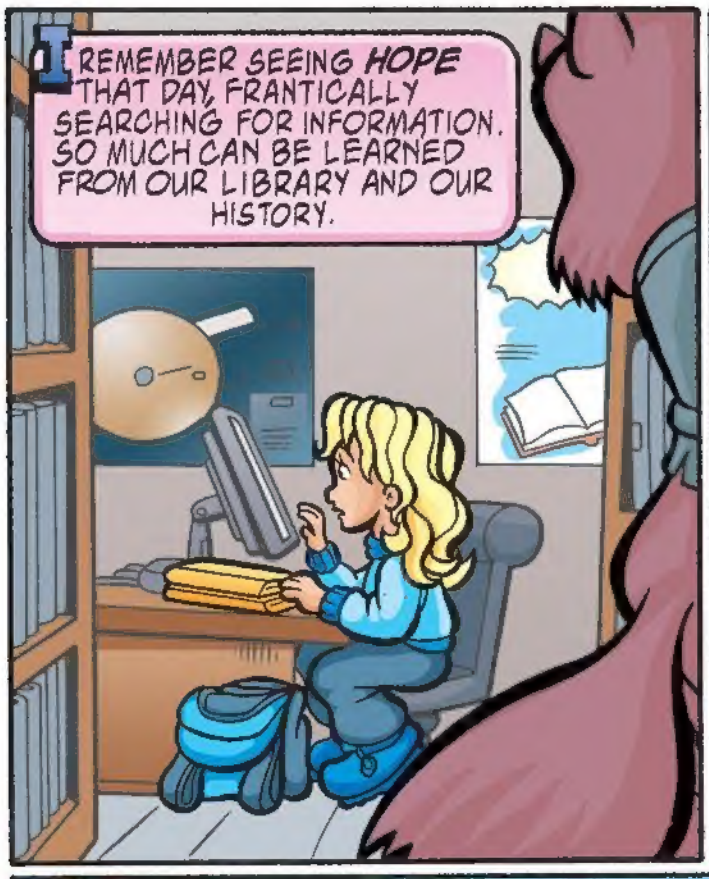
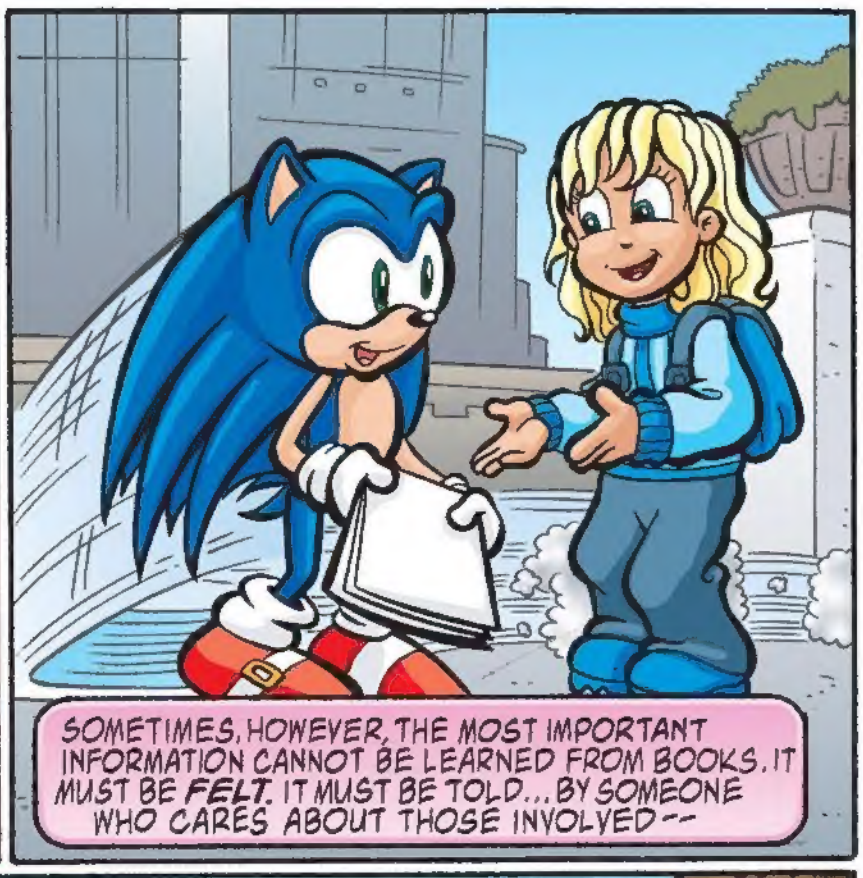
Archie ADVENTURE SERIES
NO. 143
US $2.19
SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A TRAITOR WITHIN...
... TROUBLE FOR SONIC?!
-BUTLER
-AMASH
-RAY '04
DIRECT EDITION

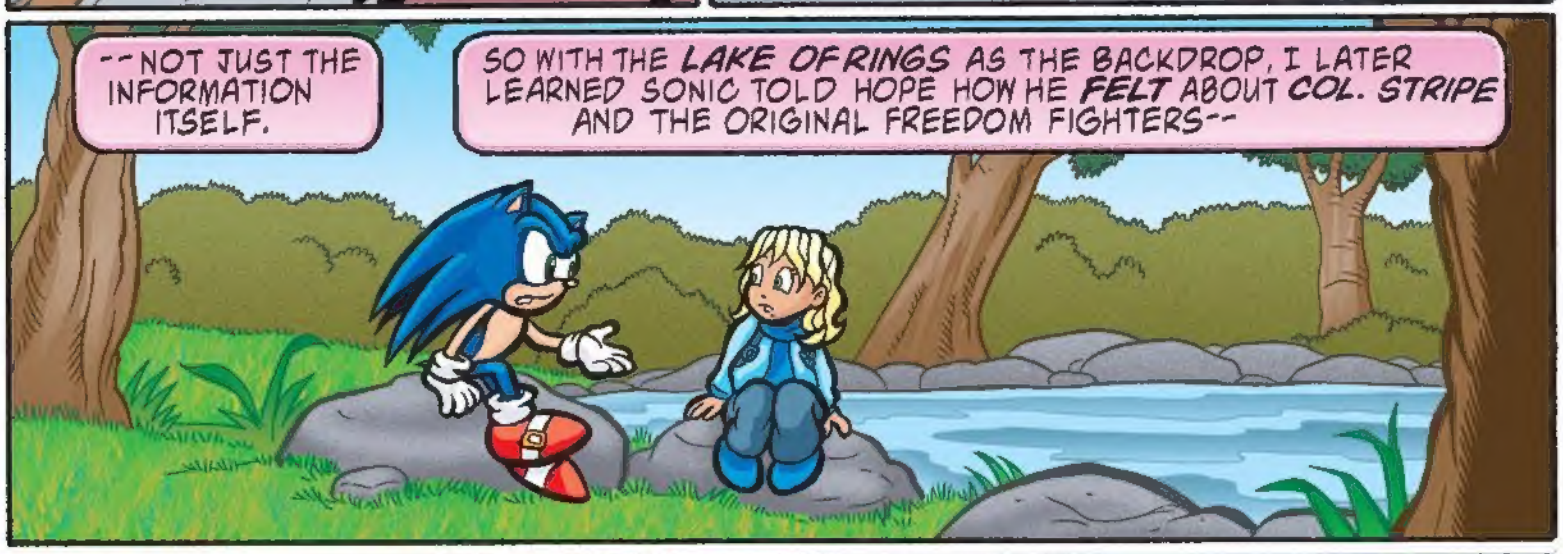
WHEN ROBOTNIK FIRST ROSE TO POWER, ONLY THE BRAVEST STOOD AGAINST HIS TYRANNICAL RULE. THUS, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE FORMED TO DEFEND AND INSPIRE THOSE AROUND THEM. UNTIL... THE FATEFUL DAY WHEN THEY WERE BETRAYED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN!

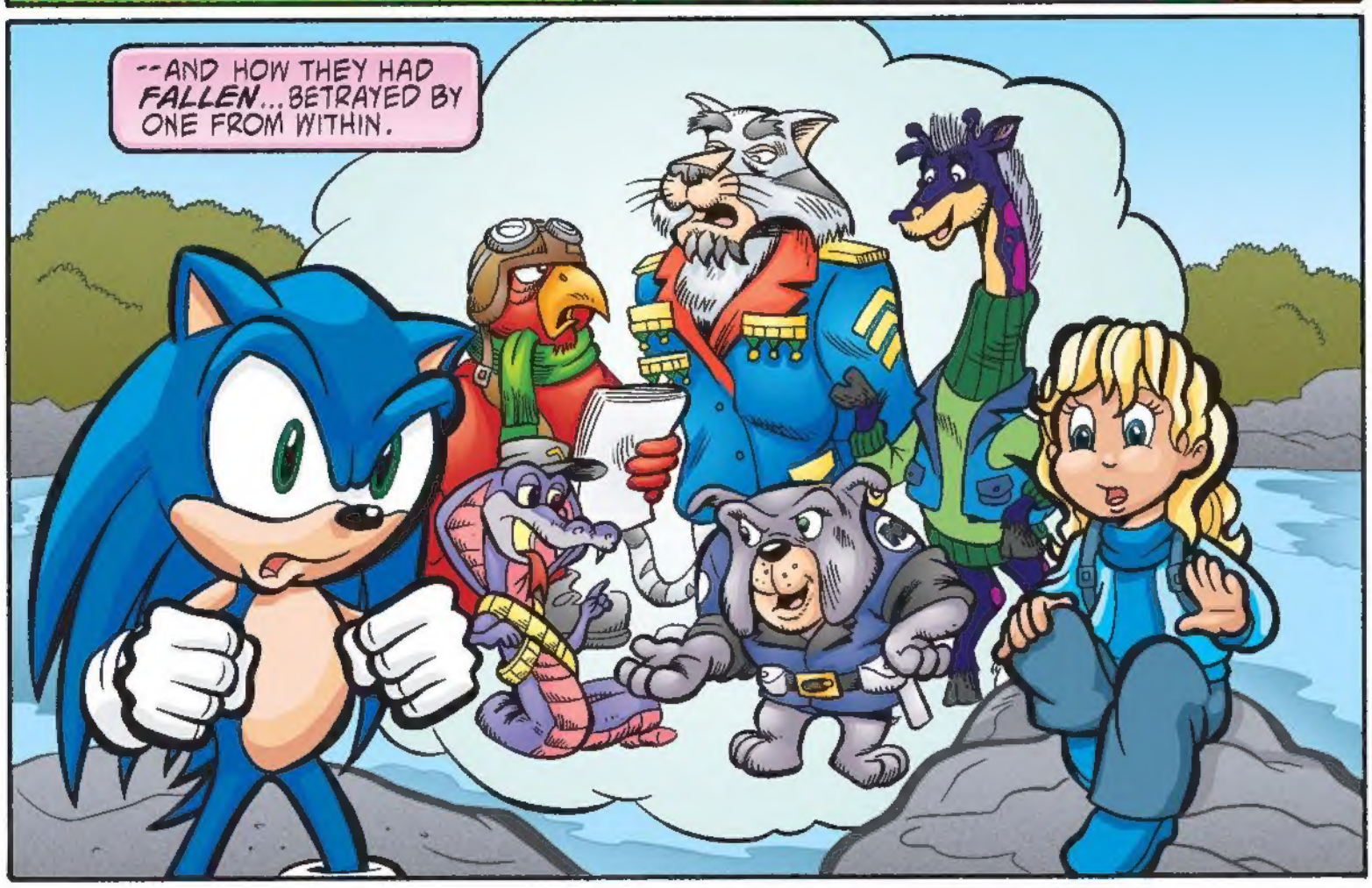
THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 143, Feb., 2005. Published every 4 weeks, twice in March by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.19 in the U.S.; $2.59 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $28.47 for 13 issues; $33.67 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2000. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2004. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

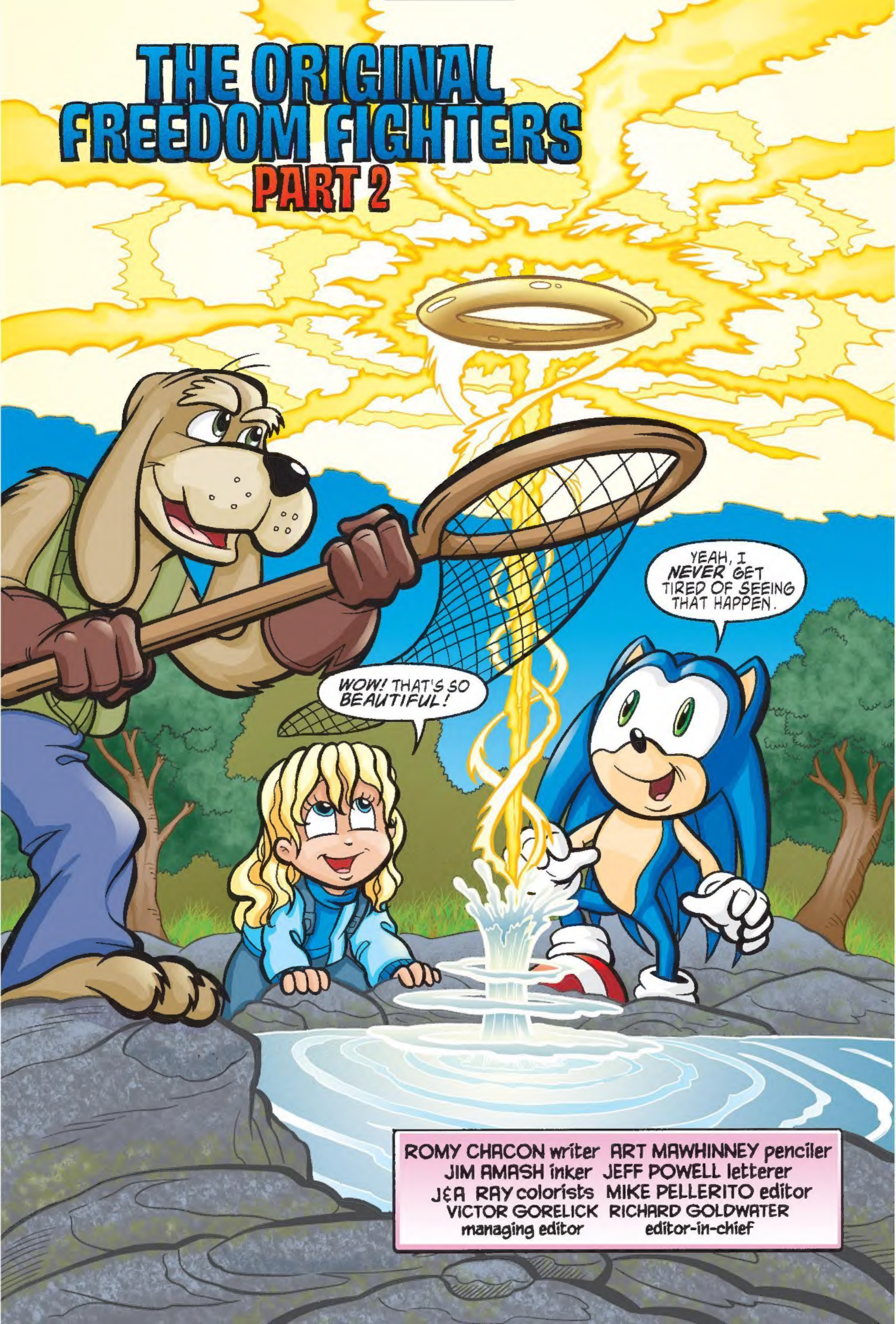

I REMEMBER SEEING HOPE THAT DAY, FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION. SO MUCH CAN BE LEARNED FROM OUR LIBRARY AND OUR HISTORY.


SOMETIMES, HOWEVER, THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION CANNOT BE LEARNED FROM BOOKS. IT MUST BE FELT. IT MUST BE TOLD... BY SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT THOSE INVOLVED--


--NOT JUST THE INFORMATION ITSELF.
SO WITH THE LAKE OF RINGS AS THE BACKDROP, I LATER LEARNED SONIC TOLD HOPE HOW HE FELT ABOUT COL. STRIPE AND THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS--


--AND HOW THEY HAD FALLEN... BETRAYED BY ONE FROM WITHIN.

THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS
PART 2



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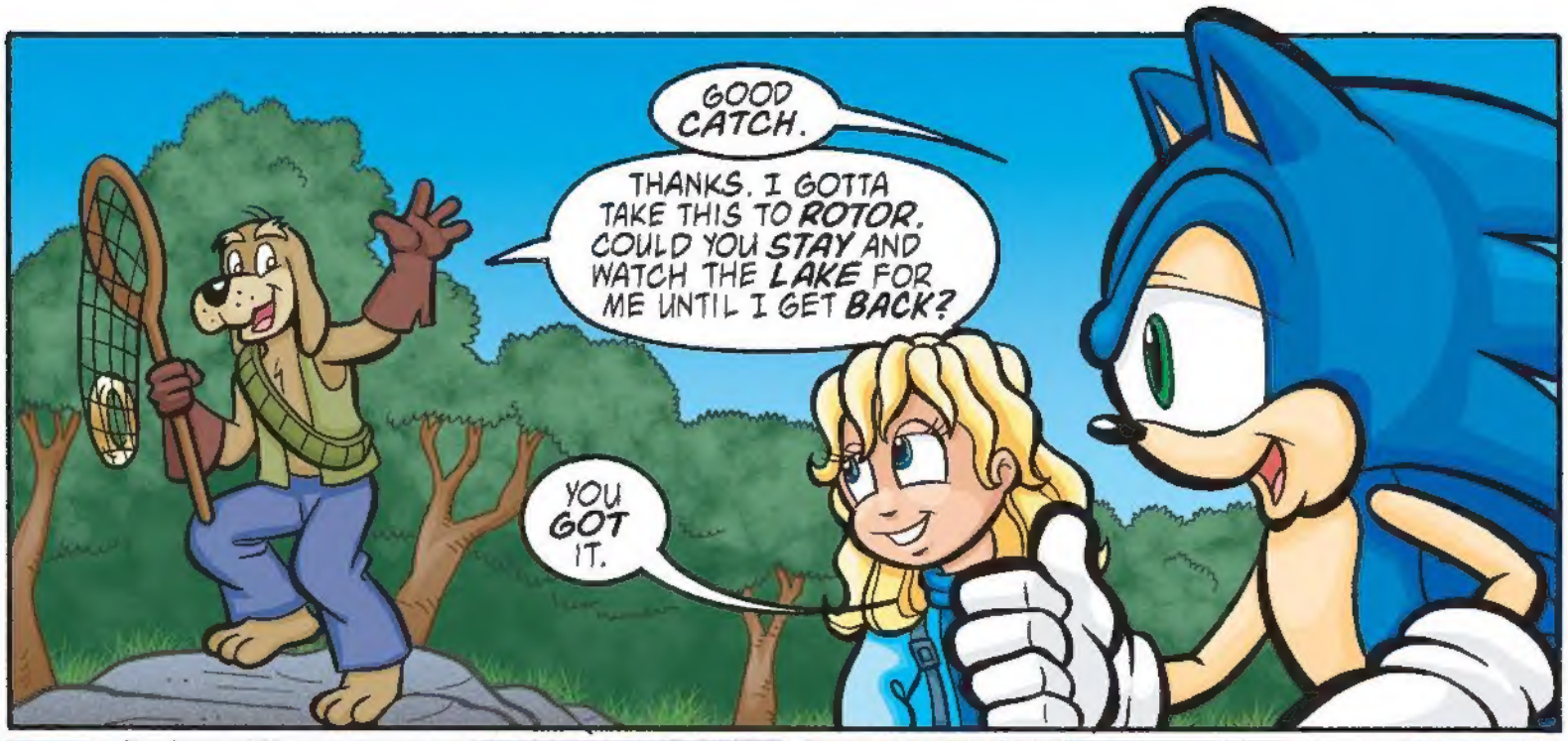
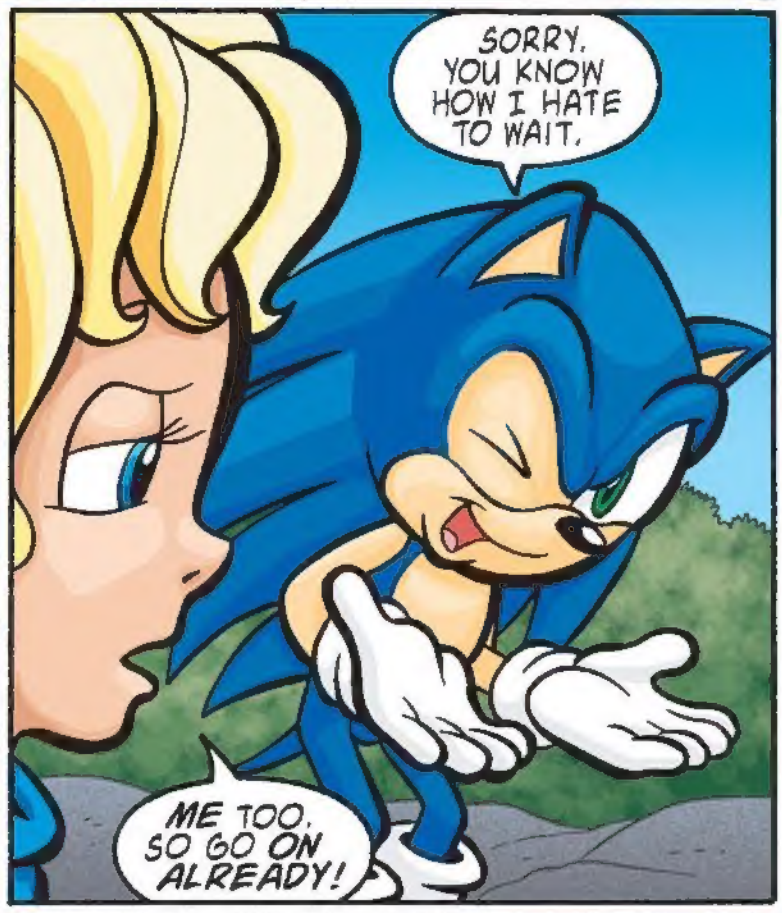

GOOD CATCH.
THANKS. I GOTTA TAKE THIS TO ROTOR. COULD YOU STAY AND WATCH THE LAKE FOR ME UNTIL I GET BACK?
YOU GOT IT.

HOPE HE DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG. I'VE GOTTA DO SOME STUFF LATER--
JUST TELL ME THE REST OF THE STORY AND I'LL STAY. DON'T TRY TO BE ALL TRICKY!


SORRY. YOU KNOW HOW I HATE TO WAIT.
ME TOO. SO GO ON ALREADY!

SO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE DOING MORE THAN ENOUGH TO GET ROBOTNIK'S ATTENTION.
GOOD, RIGHT?

GOOD, IN THAT THEIR PLAN WAS WORKING. BAD BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

PRINCESS, YOU ARE GETTING TO BE SO BIG, YOU'LL HAVE TO BOUNCE ME ON YOUR KNEE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
OH, COLONEL THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. I'LL NEVER BE THAT BIG.
HE KNOWS THAT, CHILD. HE MEANS IT MERELY IN JEST.
I KNOW, I'M "JESTING" BACK.

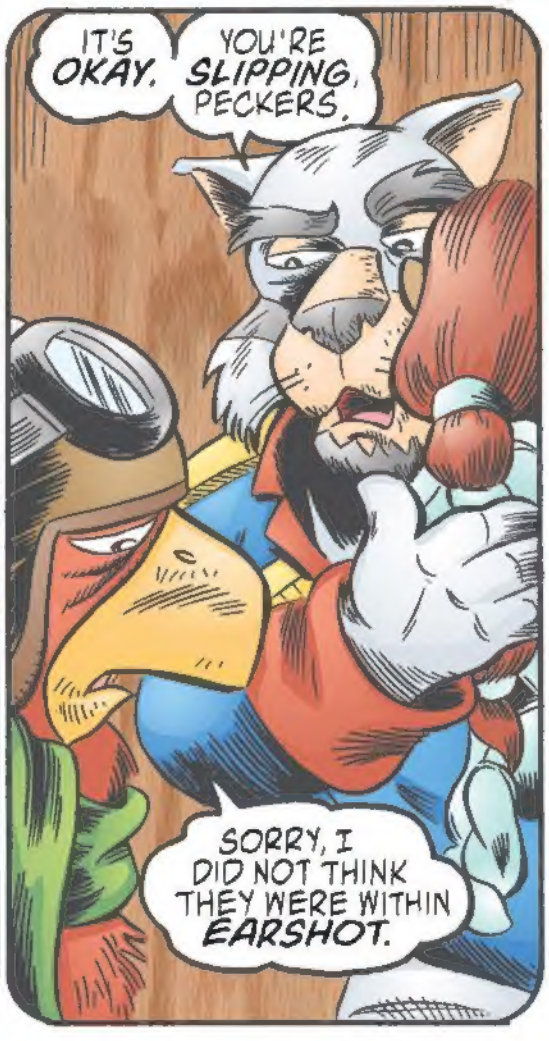
COL. STRIPE, SORRY TO INTERRUPT--

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, LADIES, AND YOUR HIGHNESS.
OH, STOP CALLING ME THAT.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, SIR PECKERS. WE WERE JUST LEAVING.

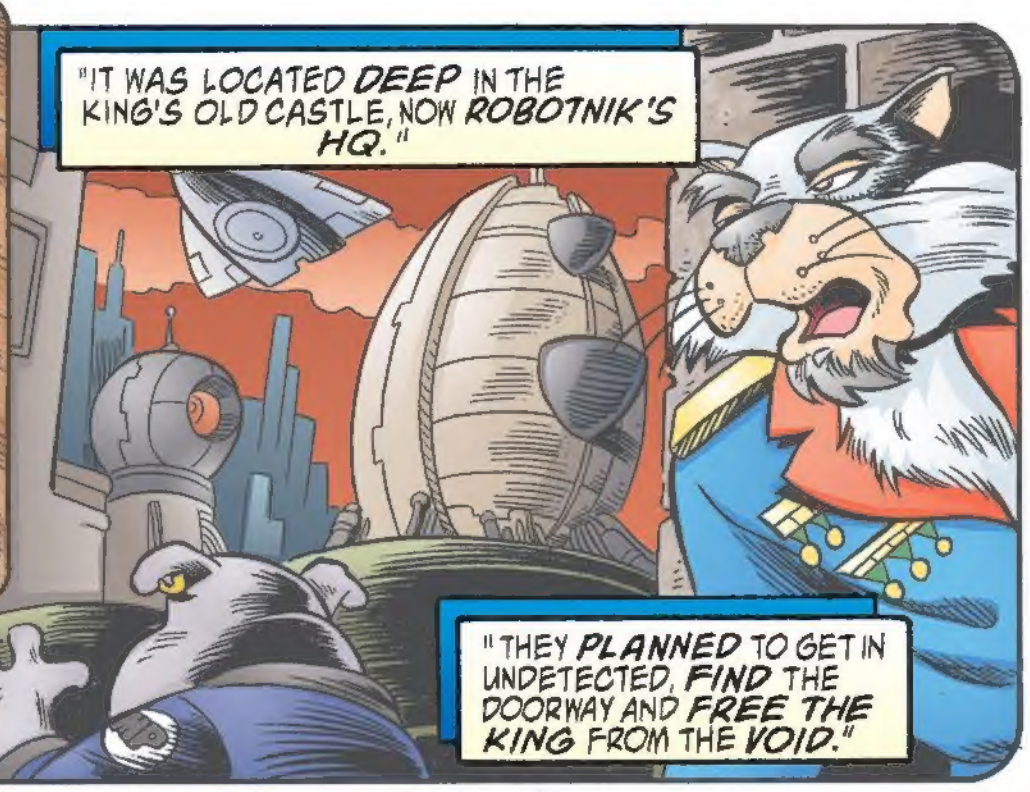
COME BACK ANY TIME.
I WILL, I MEAN, WE WILL.

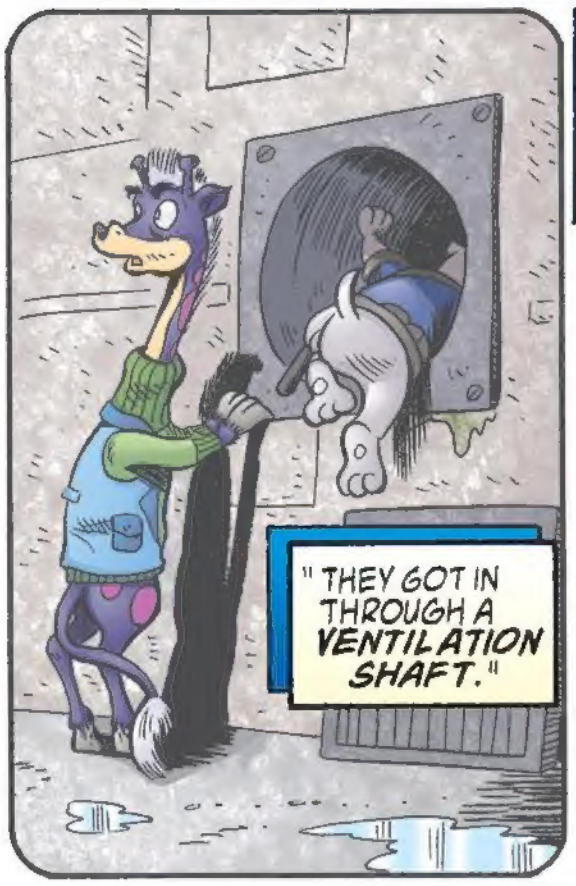
WELL, PECKERS, WHAT IS IT?
WORD FROM THE MISSION TEAM. WE FOUND OUT WHERE ROBOTNIK EXILED THE KING TO.
D-DADDY...?

COL. STRIPE, YOU MUST SAVE MY DADDY, PLEASE?
OF COURSE, PRINCESS. YOU KNOW I AM SWORN TO SAVE HIM IF I CAN.


IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE SLIPPING, PECKERS.
SORRY, I DID NOT THINK THEY WERE WITHIN EARSHOT.

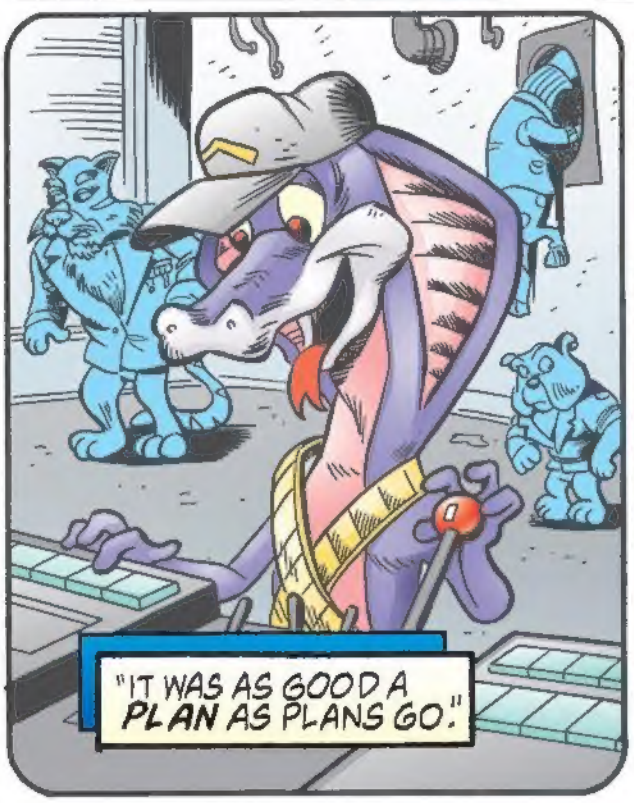
"THEY HAD FOUND OUT KING ACORN WAS SENT TO THE VOID, A DOORWAY TO ANOTHER REALM DISCOVERED BY IXIS NAUGUS."


"IT WAS LOCATED DEEP IN THE KING'S OLD CASTLE, NOW ROBOTNIK'S HQ."
"THEY PLANNED TO GET IN UNDETECTED, FIND THE DOORWAY AND FREE THE KING FROM THE VOID."


"THEY GOT IN THROUGH A VENTILATION SHAFT."

"THE OUTSIDE LOOKED NOTHING LIKE THE OLD ACORN'S CASTLE, HOWEVER, THE INTERIOR'S INFRA-STRUCTURE HAD NOT CHANGED AS DRASTICALLY."

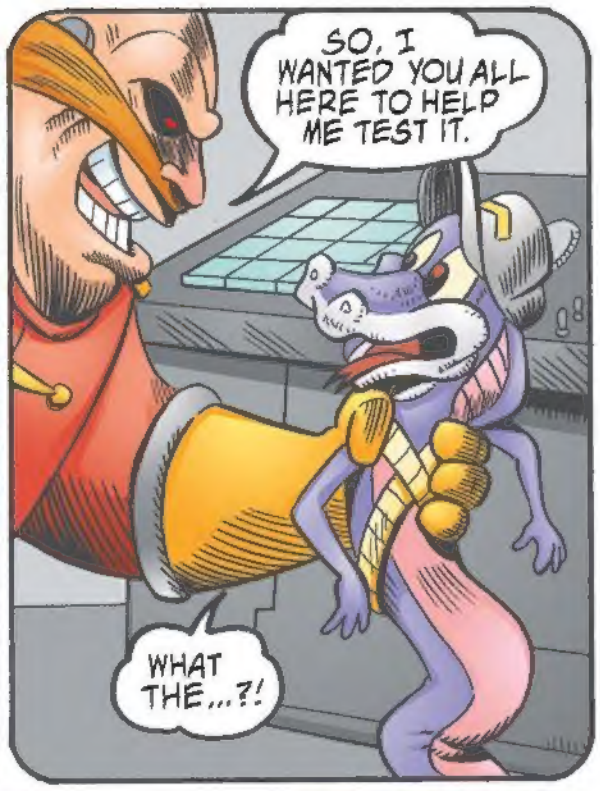
GENTLEMEN, WE'RE IN.


"IT WAS AS GOOD A PLAN AS PLANS GO."

"BUT LIKE ANY GOOD PLAN..."

"--IT MUST REMAIN A TRUSTED SECRET!"
JULIAN...
COL. STRIPE! SO GOOD OF YOU TO VISIT.
WHY, SCALES? WHY?
BECAUSE DR.ROBOTNIK GAVE ME...POWER AND CONTROL. BESIDES, I'M A SNAKE. IT'S TOTALLY WITHIN MY NATURE.
SO YOU GOT US WHERE YOU WANT US, JULIAN. NOW WHAT?
FIRST, ADDRESS ME AS DR. ROBOTNIK.
SECOND, I MUST SAY, YOU WERE STARTING TO BECOME A REAL THORN. LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO DO SOME PLANTING MYSELF.

THIRD, I'VE MADE SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THIS ROOM. I DON'T KNOW IF IT WORKS OR NOT... LET'S TRY IT, SHALL WE?

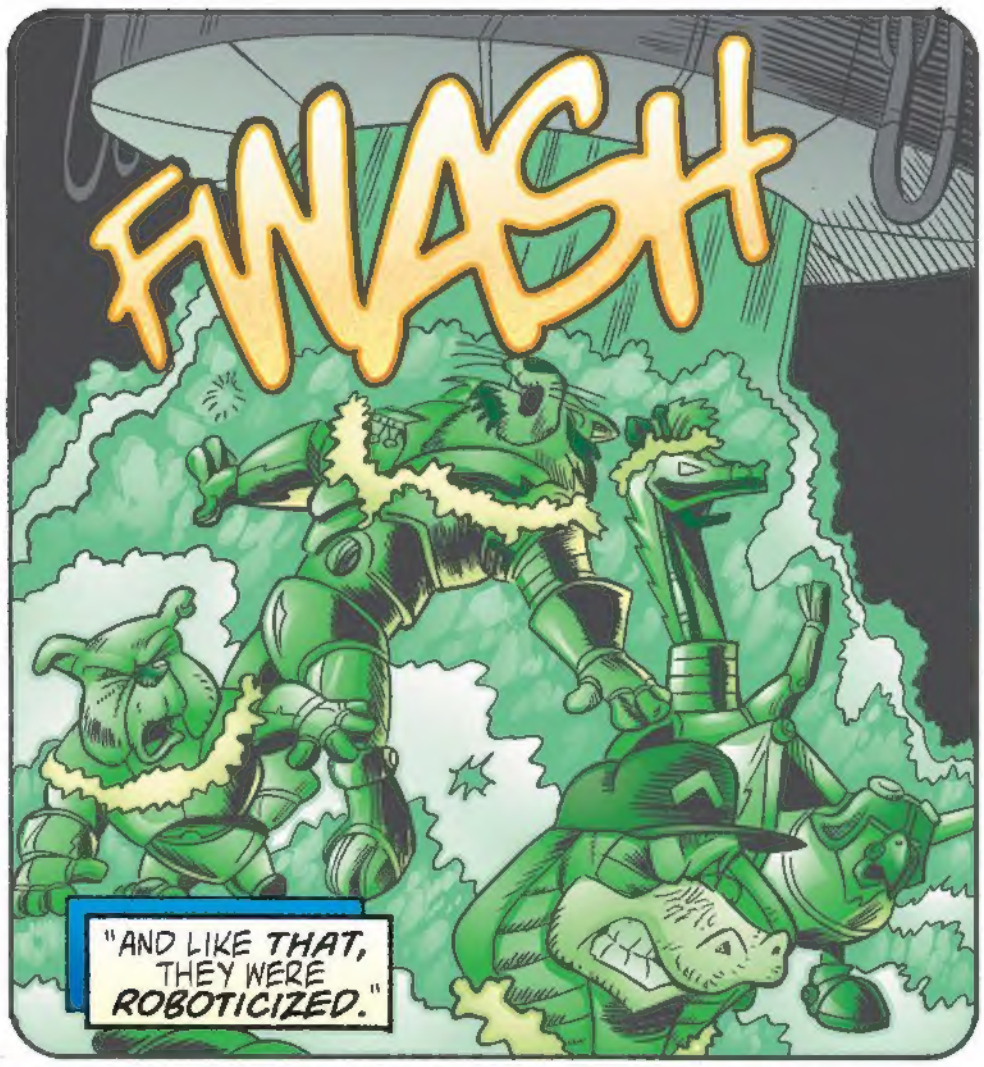

SO, I WANTED YOU ALL HERE TO HELP ME TEST IT.
WHAT THE...?!

WHY DON'T YOU GO JOIN YOUR TEAM? SNAKE!

NO!

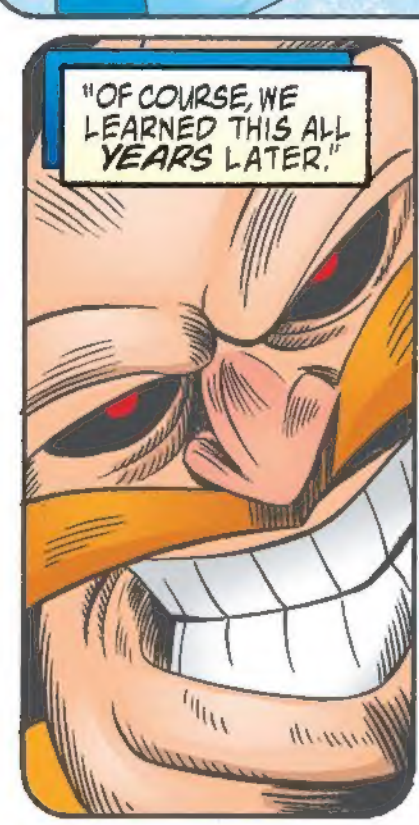
WE HAD A DEAL!

TRUE, BUT HOW COULD I TRUST YOU? YOU DID JUST SAY YOU WERE A SNAKE. NATURE AND ALL THAT, REMEMBER?
BESIDES, MY FIRST ROOM-SIZED ROBOTICIZER WILL KEEP YOU TOGETHER

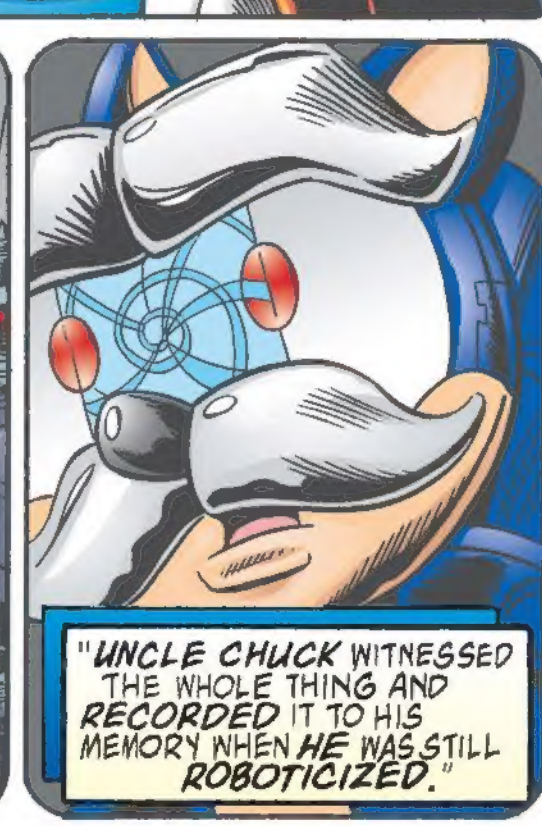

FWASH
"AND LIKE THAT, THEY WERE ROBOTICIZED."

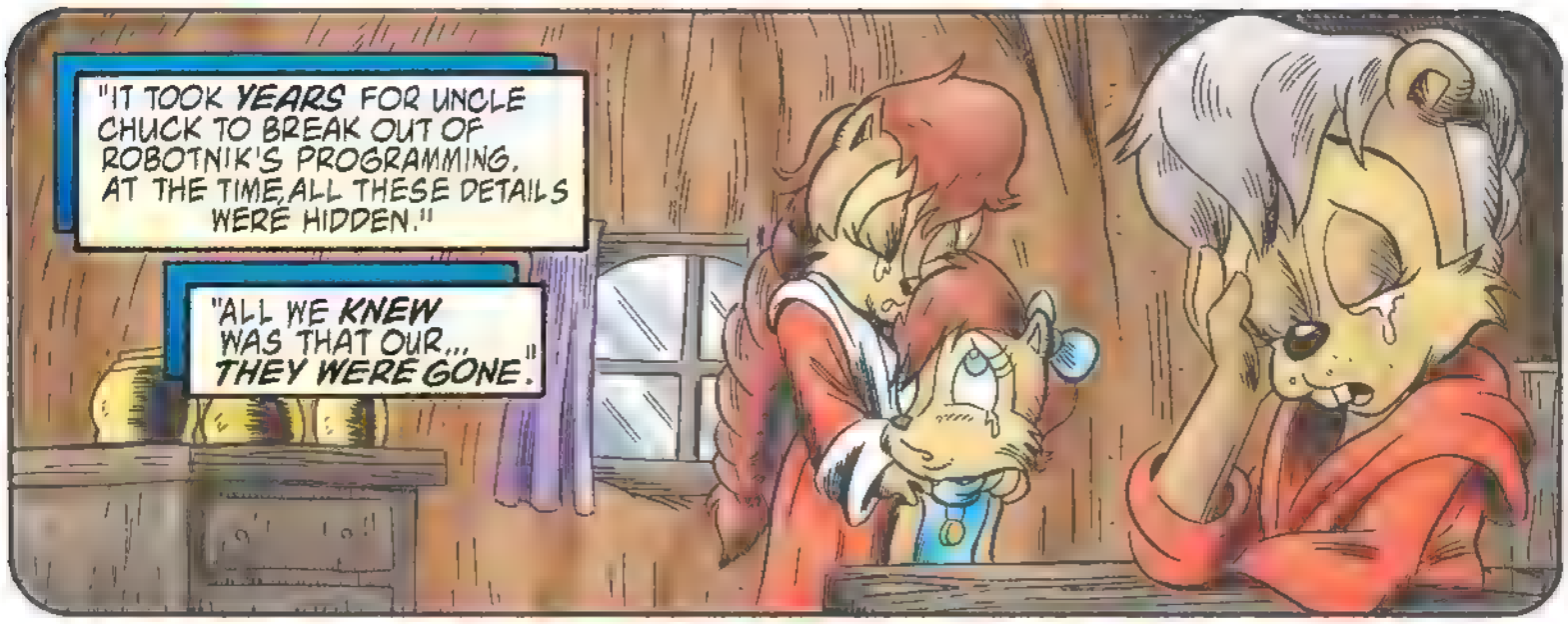
"THEN ROBOTNIK OPENED THE VOID."

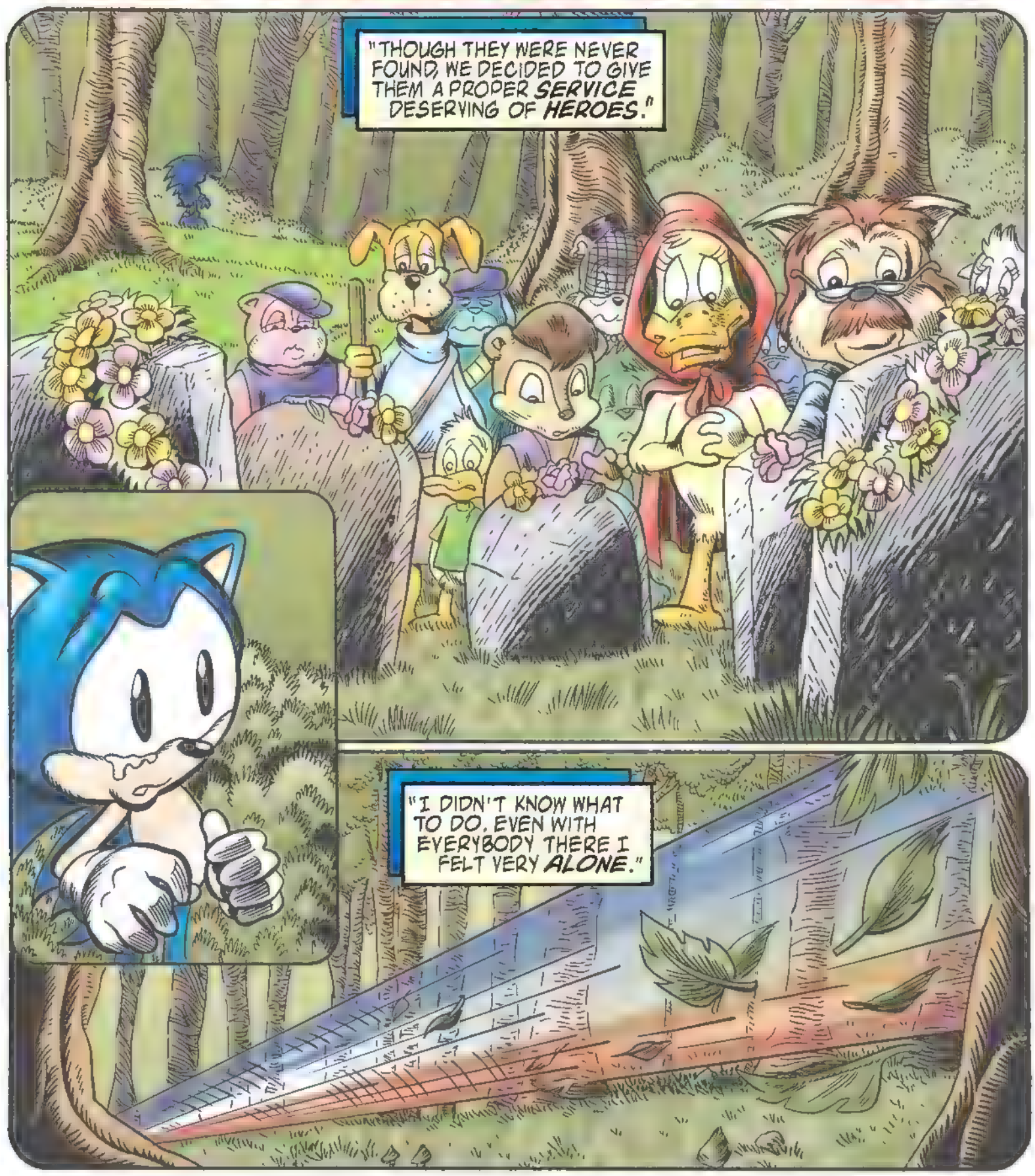
"AND THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE SUCKED THROUGH THE VOID, JUST LIKE THEIR KING.*"
*From the now classic SONIC #43.


"OF COURSE, WE LEARNED THIS ALL YEARS LATER."

SIR CHARLES, I COMMAND YOU TO THE VOID. I'M OFF TO MORE IMPORTANT THINGS...


"UNCLE CHUCK WITNESSED THE WHOLE THING AND RECORDED IT TO HIS MEMORY WHEN HE WAS STILL ROBOTICIZED."


"IT TOOK YEARS FOR UNCLE CHUCK TO BREAK OUT OF ROBOTNIK'S PROGRAMMING. AT THE TIME, ALL THESE DETAILS WERE HIDDEN."
"ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT OUR... THEY WERE GONE."


"THOUGH THEY WERE NEVER FOUND, WE DECIDED TO GIVE THEM A PROPER SERVICE DESERVING OF HEROES."
"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. EVEN WITH EVERYBODY THERE I FELT VERY ALONE."

BUT I WOULDN'T BE *ALONE* FOR LONG.

LATER THERE WAS THIS IDEA. IT WASN'T A BAD IDEA AS IDEAS GO. THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WOULD *LIVE ON*...THROUGH *US*.*

*From the also classic SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #5

AND THE REST, AS THEY SAY, IS *HISTORY*.

HISTORY...? THAT REMINDS ME, I *HAVE* TO *WRITE* THIS PAPER FOR *SCHOOL* TOMORROW. GOTTA GO. BYE... AND *THANKS*.

WAIT! YOU SAID *YOU'D* STAY!

SHE'S *FASTER* THAN I THOUGHT...

I HATE WAITING. :GROAN:

AS I WATCH THIS NEW GENERATION GROW UP...

AND IN CONCLUSION, ***COL. STRIPE*** AND HIS ***FREEDOM FIGHTERS*** SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. THEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE ***HONORED.*** IT IS IN REMEMBERING THEM AND THEIR ***ACTIONS*** THAT WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE ***FUTURE GENERATIONS*** OF KNOTHOLE LIKE THEY DID SONIC AND SO MANY MORE.

THANK YOU.

I DO HAVE SO MUCH...

HOPE, VERY ***WELL DONE,*** YOU MUST'VE ***WORKED*** VERY HARD ON IT.

UH...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

RRIIINNGG

SCHOOL'S OUT!

YIPPEE!!

DON'T FORGET YOUR READINGS!

HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND, MRS. STRIPE.

BUT I ***WILL ALWAYS*** REMEMBER THE PAST, AND MOST OF ALL, YOU, MY DEAR HUSBAND FOR HELPING TO SHOW US THE WAY.

HOMEWORK

Good job Hope! A+

CLASS DISMISSED.

MORNING, L'IL MISS!

MORNING, ABBY!

HAVE YOU SEEN MOM AND DAD THIS MORNING?

YOUR MOTHER'S HAVING HER MORNING *CHONO* WITH THE *QUEEN* OUT ON THE PATIO!

THANKS!

MORNING, AUNT SALLY!

HEY, MOM! WHERE'S DAD?

GOOD MORNING, DEAR!

SURELY YOU HAVEN'T *FORGOTTEN* WHAT *DAY* THIS IS, LARA-SU?

OH!

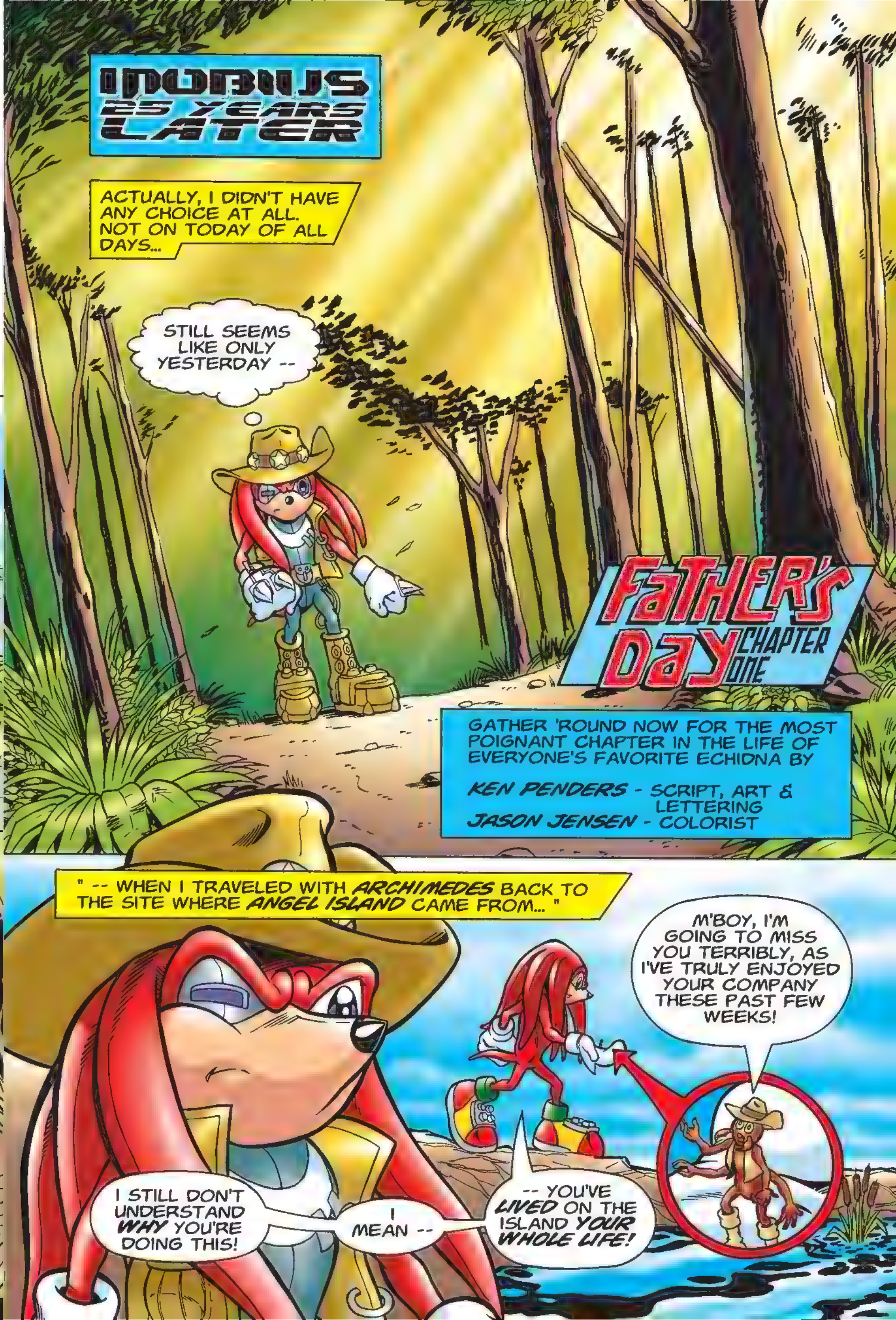
THAT'S RIGHT!

"SORRY!"

I PROBABLY *SHOULD* HAVE ACCOMPANIED SONIC -- *

* SEE *LAST ISSUE* FOR DETAILS!

-- BUT WHAT *CHOICE* DO I HAVE?


MOBIUS 25 YEARS LATER
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE AT ALL. NOT ON TODAY OF ALL DAYS...
STILL SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY --
FATHER'S DAY CHAPTER ONE
GATHER 'ROUND NOW FOR THE MOST POIGNANT CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA BY
KEN PENDERS - SCRIPT, ART & LETTERING
JASON JENSEN - COLORIST
" -- WHEN I TRAVELED WITH ARCHIMEDES BACK TO THE SITE WHERE ANGEL ISLAND CAME FROM... "
M'BOY, I'M GOING TO MISS YOU TERRIBLY, AS I'VE TRULY ENJOYED YOUR COMPANY THESE PAST FEW WEEKS!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS!
I MEAN --
-- YOU'VE LIVED ON THE ISLAND YOUR WHOLE LIFE!

AND NOW I WISH TO RETURN TO MY ANCESTRAL GROUNDS!
AREN'T THERE A FAIR SHARE OF ECHIDNAS WHO LONG FOR ALBION?
ATHAIR DARED TO DREAM! MAYBE YOU SHOULD AS WELL!
YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN YOUR FIRST STEP!
I SUPPOSE.
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT BIT EITHER!
I CAN'T IMAGINE LIVING ANYWHERE BUT ANGEL ISLAND!
HUH?
BAMF!
BAMF!
DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT SAY THE GUARDIANSHIP SHOULD END WITH YOU?
THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANY CHILDREN OF YOURS TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS?
YEAH! SO?
IF YOU ADHERE TO THAT DECISION, YOU'D BE MAKING A CLEAR BREAK FROM THE PAST!
NOTHING'S EVER COME EASY BEFORE, ARCHI --
-- AND I DON'T EXPECT IT EVER WILL!
M'BOY --
ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU'RE UP TO DEALING WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS?

* ARCHI IS PRONOUNCED "AR-KEY" WHEREAS THE FORMAL VERSION IS PRONOUNCED "AR-KHA-ME-DEES."

"I JUST STOOD THERE, NUMB WITH A SENSE OF LOSS, AND WONDERING IF I'D EVER SEE HIM AGAIN..."

"AFTER AWHILE, I USED THE GUIDING STAR GEM TO RETURN TO ANGEL ISLAND ONCE MORE...

MOM! BOY, IT'S BEEN AWHILE, HASN'T IT?

WHERE'S MACE?

KNUCKLES!! HAVE --HAVE YOU --

MOM, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT IS IT?

IT'S YOUR FATHER, HONEY!

HE'S NOT -- DOING TOO WELL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NOT DOING WELL"?

"MOM COULDN'T BRING HERSELF TO ACTUALLY SAY WHAT WAS UP WITH DAD, SO *WYNMACHER* TOOK CHARGE AT THAT POINT..."

I THINK IT BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF WE TOOKA RIDE UPTOWN!

CABBIE!!

WHERE TO, YOUR LORDSHIP?

ALBION GENERAL, MY GOOD MAN!

THE *HOSPITAL?* DAD'S *THERE?!*

TO PUT IT AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE, SON, YOUR FATHER HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL IN SOME TIME --"

-- AND WE'RE *NOT SURE* WHAT EXACTLY HIS *PROBLEM* IS!

BUT DAD WAS DOING *GREAT* WHEN I *LAST* SAW HIM!

"NOBODY SAID A WORD AFTER THAT UNTIL WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL -- "

ALBION GENERAL

" -- WHERE WE MET WITH *DOCTOR SHOCKRA*..."

SO *YOU'RE* THE *GUARDIAN!* YOUR FATHER MUST BE *VERY PROUD!*

LOOK, DOC, I DON'T WANT TO SEEM *RUDE* --

-- BUT I'D RATHER HEAR ABOUT MY DAD!

IN A NUTSHELL, EVERY TEST WE'VE RUN HAS COME UP NEGATIVE!
BY EVERY STANDARD OF MEASURE, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO JUST GET UP AND WALK OUT OF HERE ON HIS OWN!
BUT -- ?
HIS WEIGHT IS DOWN, HIS STAMINA CLEARLY NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE, AND HE'S IN CONSTANT PAIN!
SO CAN YOU FIX HIM?
WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS -- ONE: WE CAN KEEP RUNNING TESTS IN THE HOPE SOMETHING TURNS UP --
-- OR TWO: WE CAN PERFORM SURGERY!
BUT IF WE DO THAT, WE COULD SPEED UP THE PROCESS!
PROCESS? WHAT PROCESS, DOC?
YOUR FATHER'S DYING!

FATHER'S DAY CHAPTER TWO

"SINCE DAD WASN'T CLEARLY OF SOUND MIND AT THE TIME, AS HIS *CLOSEST* RELATIVE, THE DOCS TURNED TO *ME* FOR *PERMISSION* TO PERFORM *EXPLORATORY SURGERY.*"

GUARDIAN?

"AND SINCE *MOM* WAS A *MESS* -- CRYING ONE MINUTE, ANGRY THE NEXT -- I HAD *NO ONE* TO TURN TO. NOT WYNMACHER. NOT MY GRANDFATHER SABRE. AND *MACE* WAS TOO YOUNG."

"SO I HAD TO MAKE THE CALL."

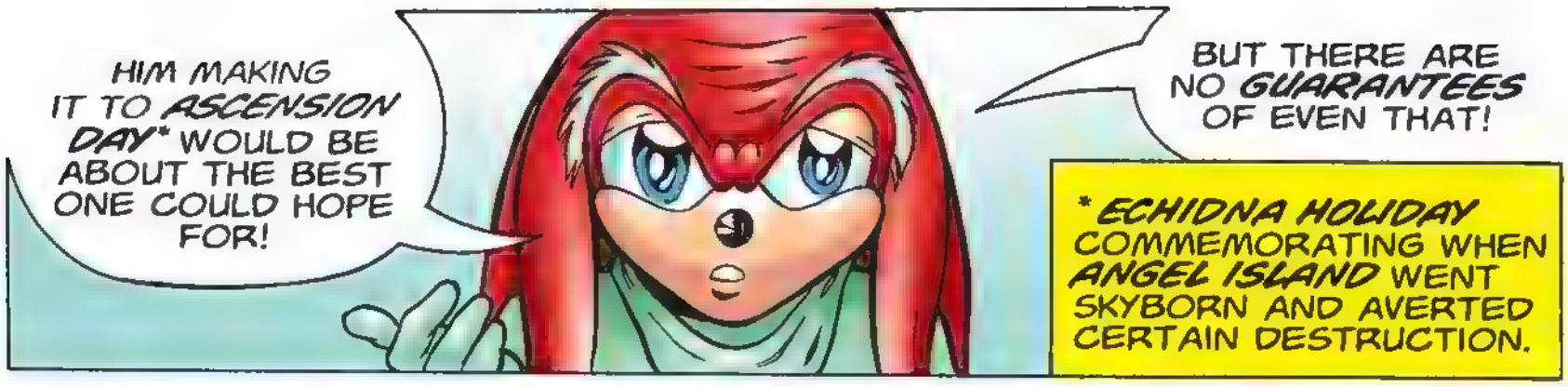
"IT SEEMED LIKE A *LIFETIME* AGO WHEN THE *DOCTOR* CAME TO GIVE HIS *PROGNOSIS*..."

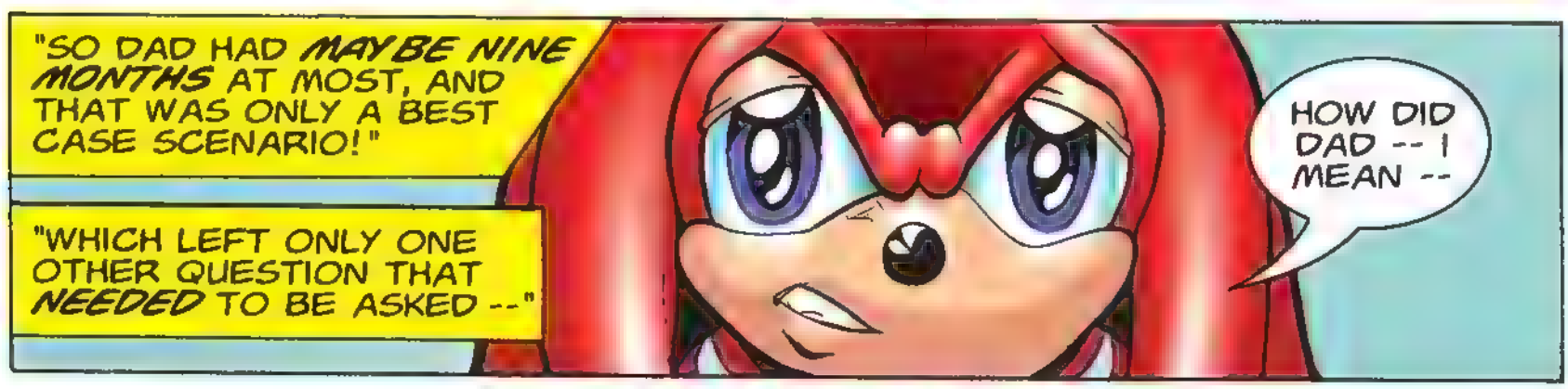
YEAH?

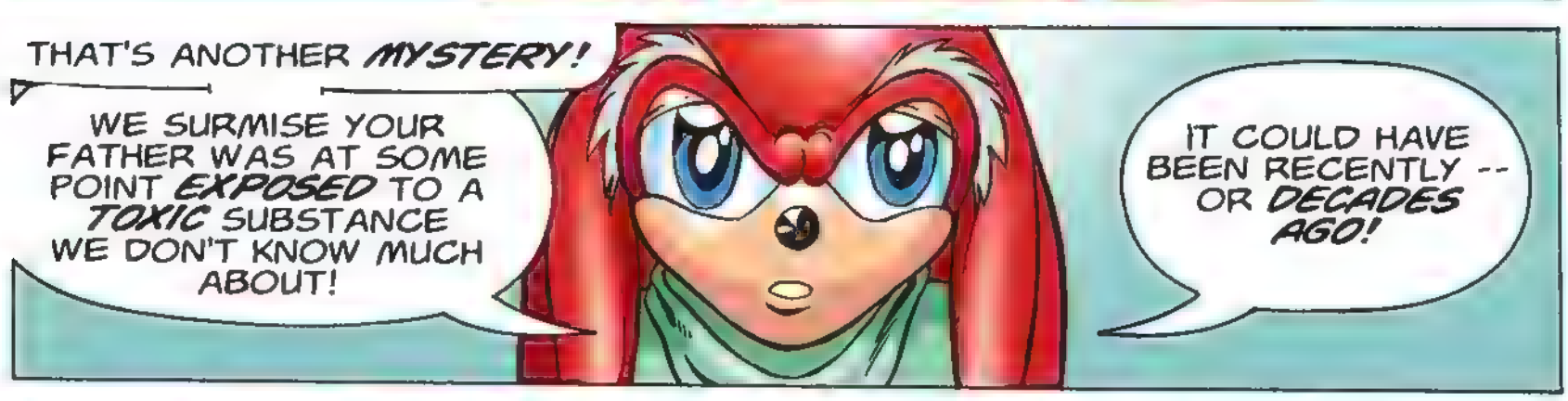
YOUR FATHER HAS A *CARCINOGENIC* PANCREAS.

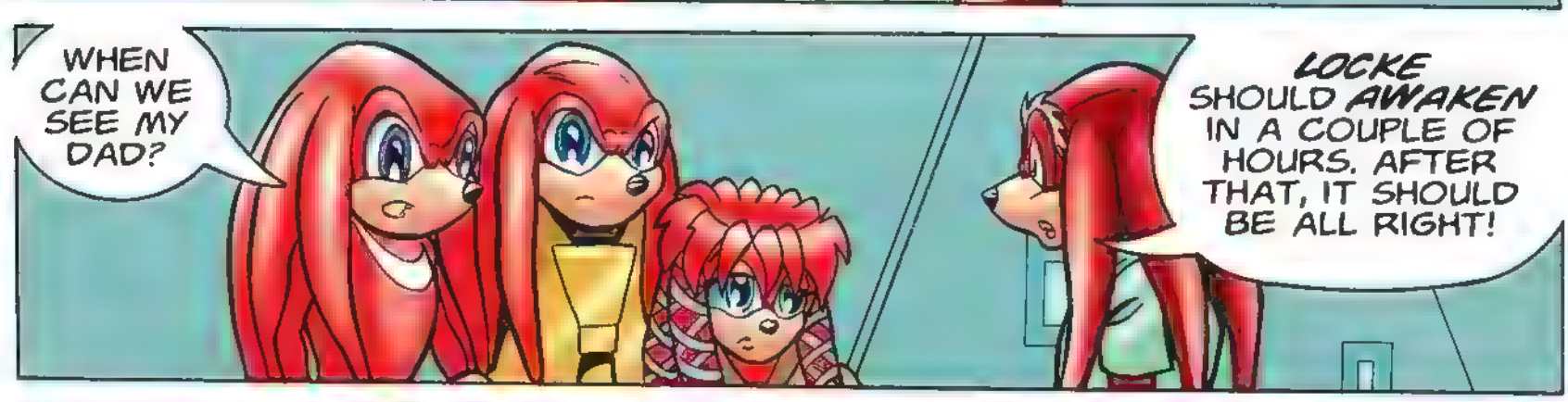
THERE'S *NOTHING* MORE WE CAN DO. I'M *SORRY.*

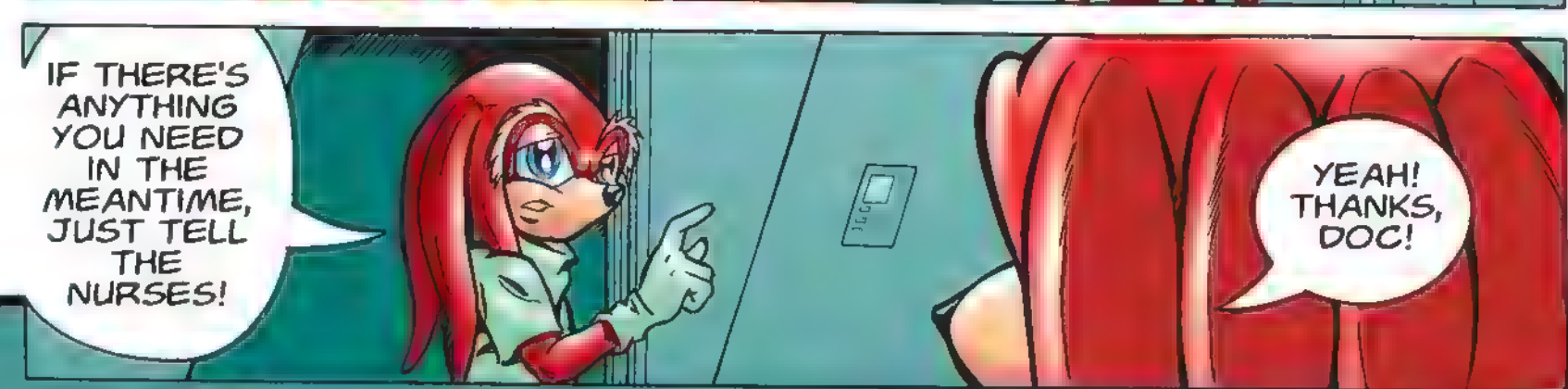
IS -- IS THAT IT?

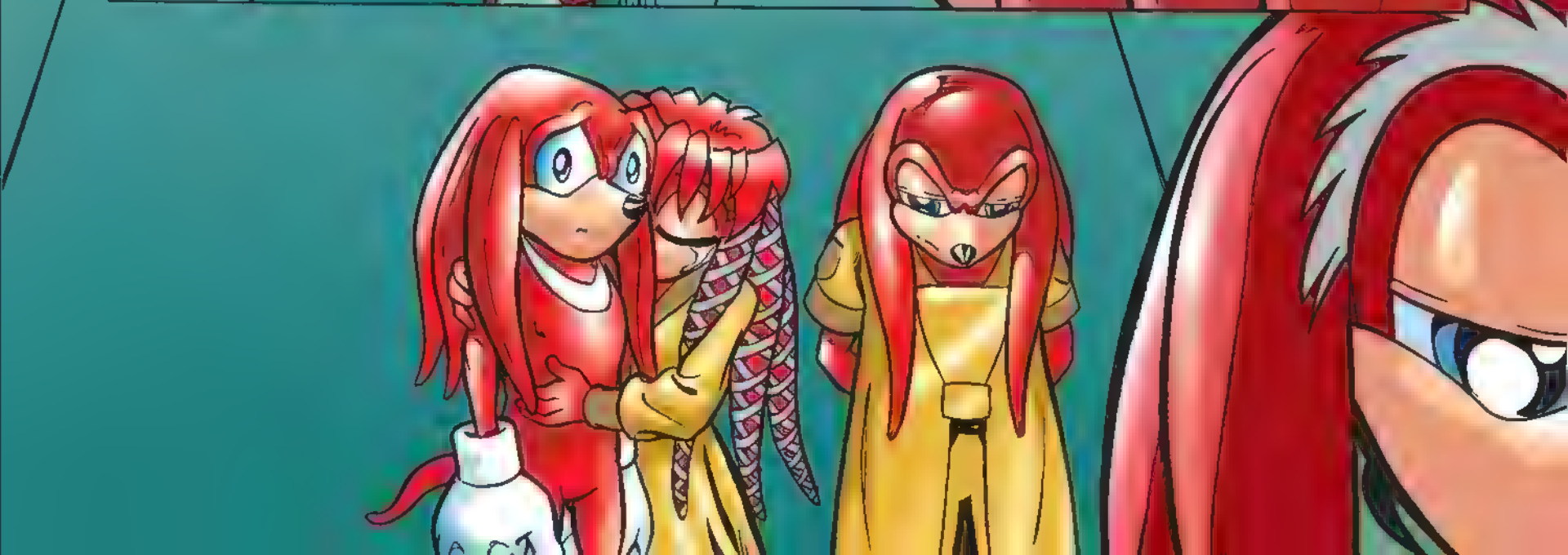

HIM MAKING IT TO ASCENSION DAY* WOULD BE ABOUT THE BEST ONE COULD HOPE FOR!
BUT THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES OF EVEN THAT!
*ECHIDNA HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING WHEN ANGEL ISLAND WENT SKYBORN AND AVERTED CERTAIN DESTRUCTION.

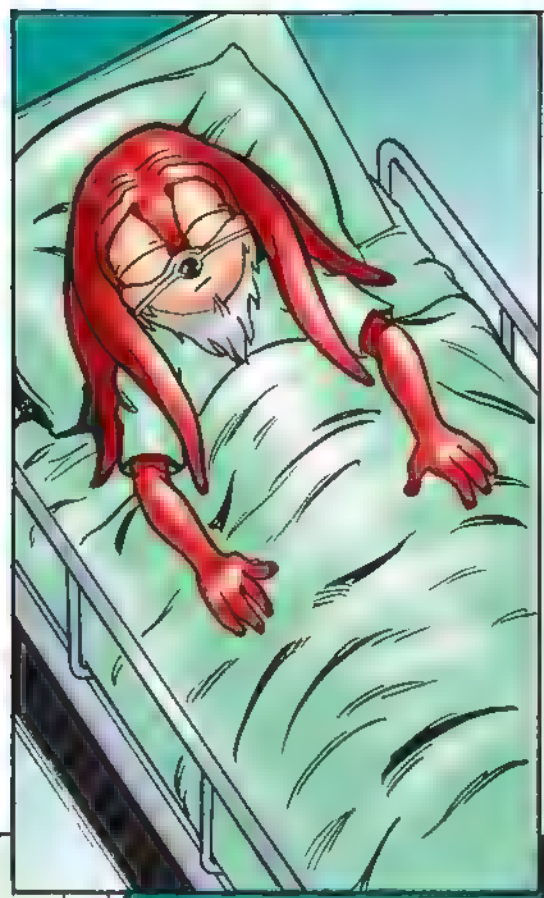

"SO DAD HAD MAYBE NINE MONTHS AT MOST, AND THAT WAS ONLY A BEST CASE SCENARIO!"
"WHICH LEFT ONLY ONE OTHER QUESTION THAT NEEDED TO BE ASKED --"
HOW DID DAD -- I MEAN --

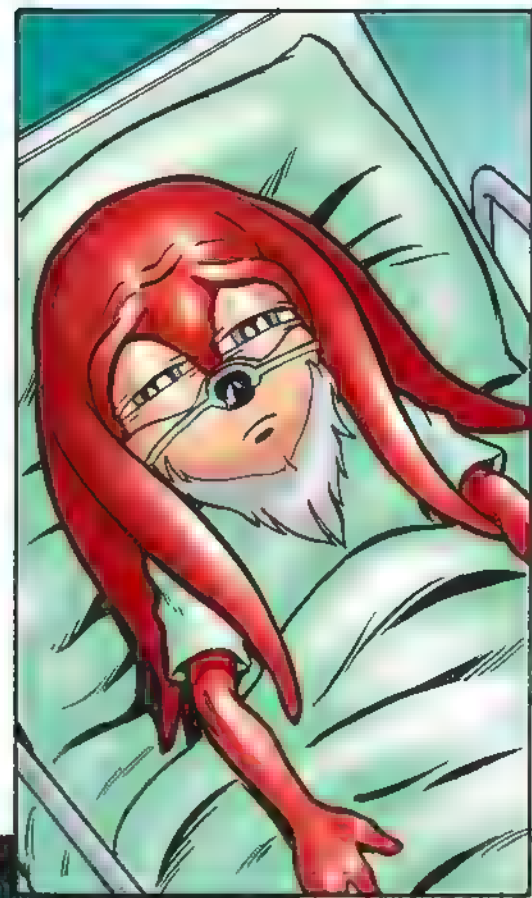

THAT'S ANOTHER MYSTERY!
WE SURMISE YOUR FATHER WAS AT SOME POINT EXPOSED TO A TOXIC SUBSTANCE WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT!
IT COULD HAVE BEEN RECENTLY -- OR DECADES AGO!


WHEN CAN WE SEE MY DAD?
LOCKE SHOULD AWAKEN IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. AFTER THAT, IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT!


IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED IN THE MEANTIME, JUST TELL THE NURSES!
YEAH! THANKS, DOC!

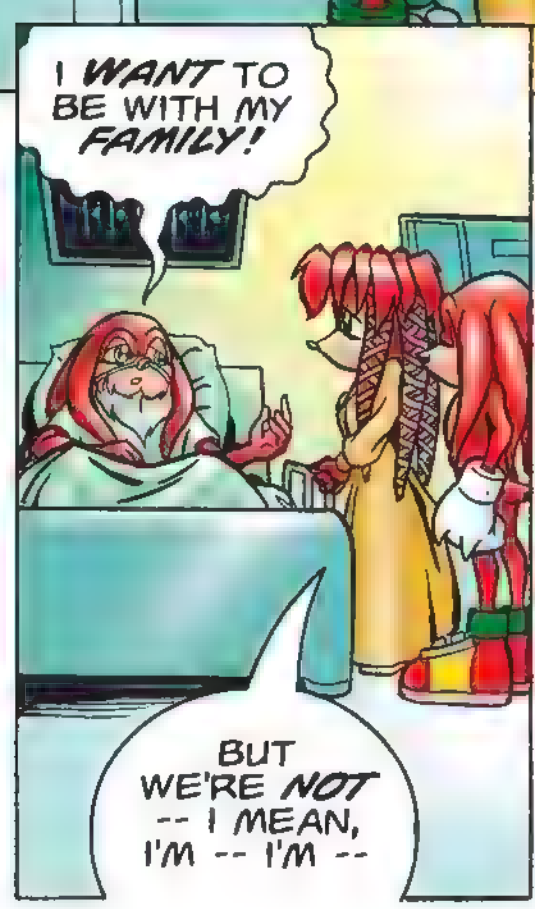






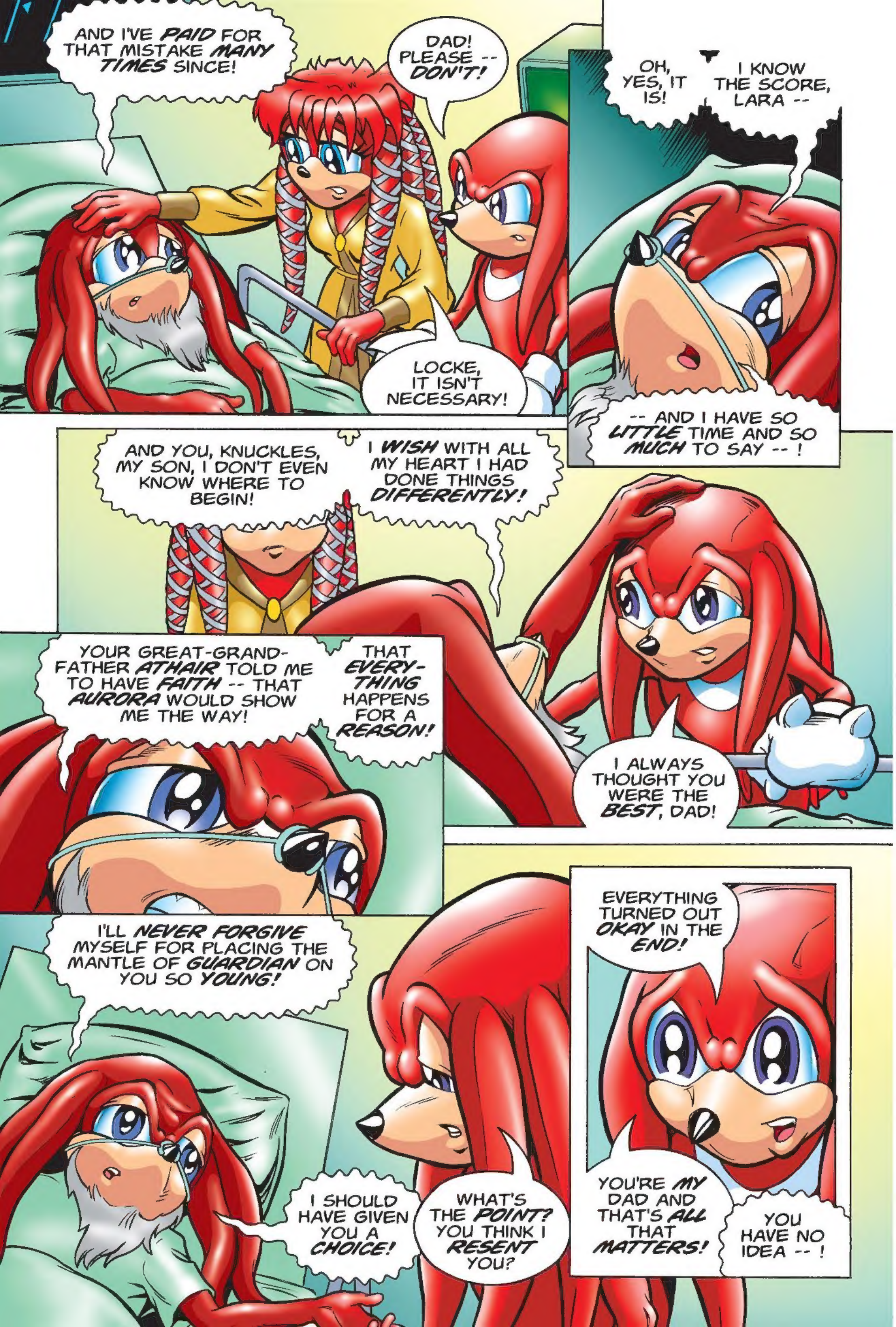
IN THE MOOD FOR SOME COMPANY?

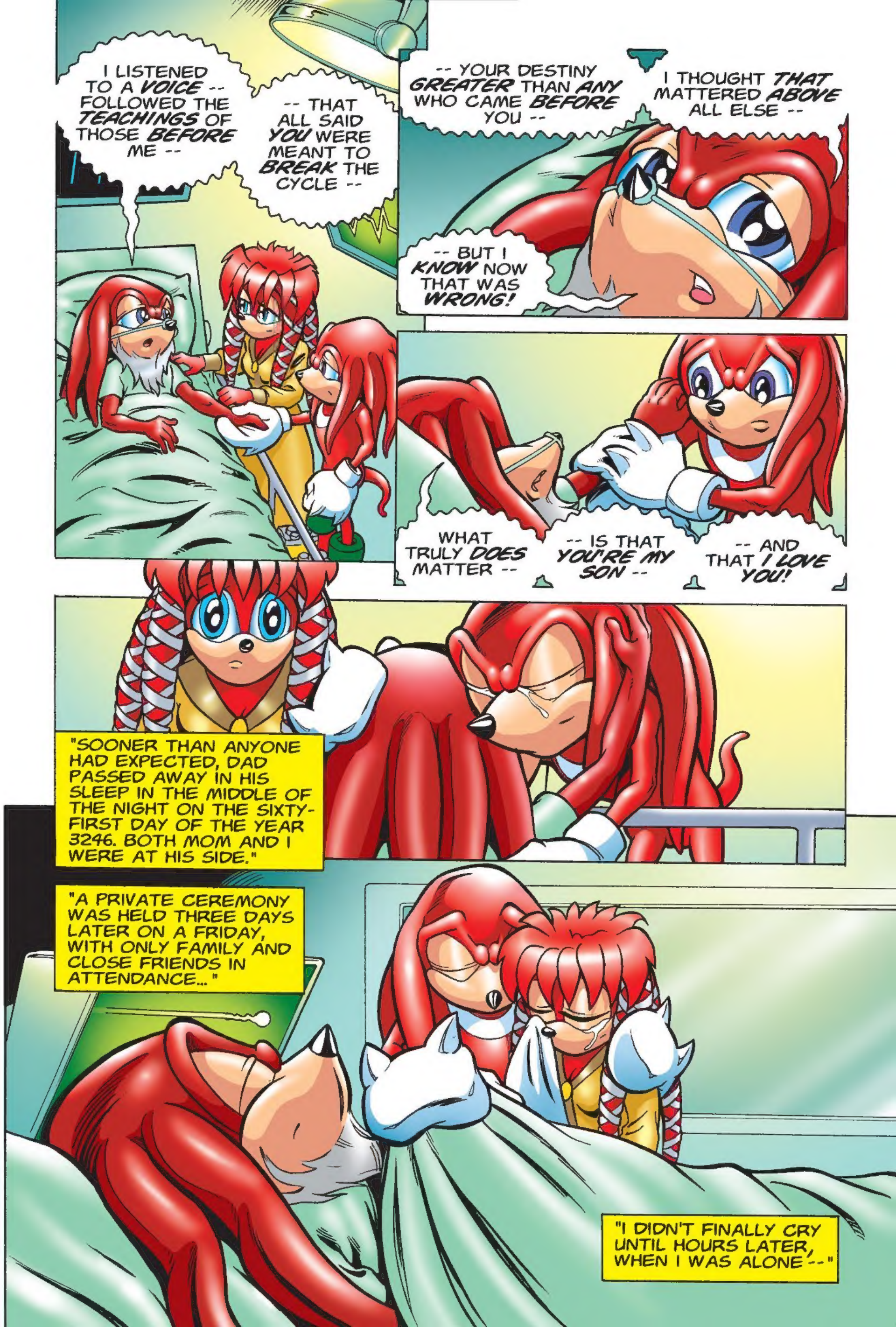
HI, DAD!
I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH YOUR FATHER, SON!
NO, LARA! WAIT!

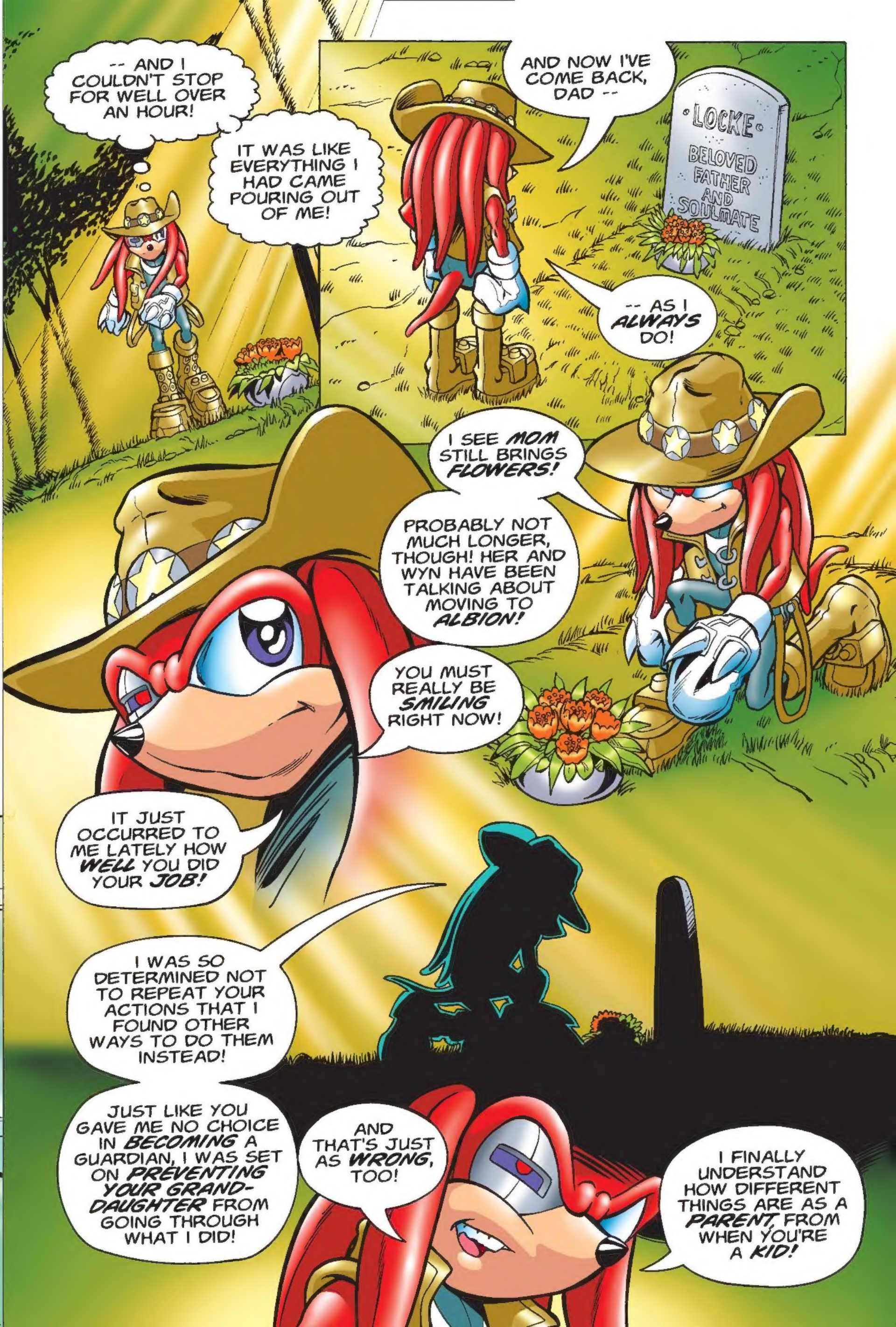

I WANT TO BE WITH MY FAMILY!
BUT WE'RE NOT -- I MEAN, I'M -- I'M --

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU, LARA-LE!
ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL!
THERE COULD NEVER BE ANOTHER!

THE SOUL TOUCH BONDED US TILL DEATH DO WE PART!
I WAS THE ONE -- WHO WALKED AWAY FROM WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN!


AND I'VE PAID FOR THAT MISTAKE MANY TIMES SINCE!
DAD! PLEASE -- DON'T!
LOCKE, IT ISN'T NECESSARY!
OH, YES, IT IS!
I KNOW THE SCORE, LARA --
-- AND I HAVE SO LITTLE TIME AND SO MUCH TO SAY -- !
AND YOU, KNUCKLES, MY SON, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!
I WISH WITH ALL MY HEART I HAD DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY!
YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER ATHAIR TOLD ME TO HAVE FAITH -- THAT AURORA WOULD SHOW ME THE WAY!
THAT EVERY-THING HAPPENS FOR A REASON!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BEST, DAD!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR PLACING THE MANTLE OF GUARDIAN ON YOU SO YOUNG!
I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A CHOICE!
WHAT'S THE POINT? YOU THINK I RESENT YOU?
EVERYTHING TURNED OUT OKAY IN THE END!
YOU'RE MY DAD AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA -- !


I LISTENED TO A VOICE -- FOLLOWED THE TEACHINGS OF THOSE BEFORE ME --
-- THAT ALL SAID YOU WERE MEANT TO BREAK THE CYCLE --
-- YOUR DESTINY GREATER THAN ANY WHO CAME BEFORE YOU --
I THOUGHT THAT MATTERED ABOVE ALL ELSE --
-- BUT I KNOW NOW THAT WAS WRONG!
WHAT TRULY DOES MATTER --
-- IS THAT YOU'RE MY SON --
-- AND THAT I LOVE YOU!
"SOONER THAN ANYONE HAD EXPECTED, DAD PASSED AWAY IN HIS SLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ON THE SIXTY-FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR 3246. BOTH MOM AND I WERE AT HIS SIDE."
"A PRIVATE CEREMONY WAS HELD THREE DAYS LATER ON A FRIDAY, WITH ONLY FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS IN ATTENDANCE..."
"I DIDN'T FINALLY CRY UNTIL HOURS LATER, WHEN I WAS ALONE--"


-- AND I COULDN'T STOP FOR WELL OVER AN HOUR!
IT WAS LIKE EVERYTHING I HAD CAME POURING OUT OF ME!
AND NOW I'VE COME BACK, DAD --
LOCKE
BELOVED FATHER AND SOULMATE
-- AS I ALWAYS DO!
I SEE MOM STILL BRINGS FLOWERS!
PROBABLY NOT MUCH LONGER, THOUGH! HER AND WYN HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT MOVING TO ALBION!
YOU MUST REALLY BE SMILING RIGHT NOW!
IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME LATELY HOW WELL YOU DID YOUR JOB!
I WAS SO DETERMINED NOT TO REPEAT YOUR ACTIONS THAT I FOUND OTHER WAYS TO DO THEM INSTEAD!
JUST LIKE YOU GAVE ME NO CHOICE IN BECOMING A GUARDIAN, I WAS SET ON PREVENTING YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER FROM GOING THROUGH WHAT I DID!
AND THAT'S JUST AS WRONG, TOO!
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFERENT THINGS ARE AS A PARENT, FROM WHEN YOU'RE A KID!

SO I'M GOING TO GIVE HER THE CHOICE YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME -- THE CHOICE YOU WEREN'T GIVEN EITHER, DAD!
IT ONLY TOOK UNTIL NOW FOR ME TO REALIZE THAT, AS WELL!
I ONLY WISH --
-- YOU WERE HERE FOR ME TO SHARE THAT WITH!